

Udall Main Speaker At AAIA Meeting

NEW YORK—Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall was the main speaker at the 44th annual meeting of the Association on American Indian Affairs on May 2 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City. The event was open to the public.

The Association is a national, voluntary organization founded in 1922 to assist American Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts to reach economic, political and social equality with other Americans.

Secretary Udall, whose department administers the Bureau of Indian Affairs, discussed its projected new approach to solving the long-standing problems of American Indian poverty, education needs, job opportunities, and economic development.

Alden Stevens, president of the AAIA, introduced the speakers and reported on the organization's efforts to help "our fellow Americans extricate themselves from a vicious circle of poverty and disease."

The half million American Indians and Alaska Natives have an average unemployment rate of 50%; median

family income, \$1500; average education, 5 years; housing unfit for habitation, 90%; average age at death, 43 years.

In addition to President Stevens, other officers of AAIA are: William Byler, Executive Director; Roger C. Ernst, 1st vice president; Mrs. Henry S. Forbes, secretary; and Thomas Shaw Hale, treasurer.

Headquarters of the organization are at 432 Park Avenue South, New York City.